

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is presented to place the application in proper form for examination and to eliminate multiple dependency from the present claims. No new matter has been added. Early examination and favorable consideration of the above-identified application is earnestly solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is a fuel cell stack comprising several superimposed polymer electrolyte membrane fuel cells (2). A bipolar plate (7) that is provided with longitudinal ducts (10) supplying hydrogen and transverse ducts which supply oxygen and are used for cooling is arranged between adjacent membrane-electrode units (4, 5, 6). A current flowing in opposite directions through adjacent ducts of the same fuel cell (2) can be created within the air ducts (8) via collecting ducts (11) that are provided at the outflow end for every other cooling duct if the flow is fed to the stack from both sides, resulting in a very homogeneous temperature distribution with the cell (2) or stack (4).